

**SOME REAL VICTORIES IN THE
OMNIBUS APPROPRIATION BILL**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have been told that budgets are about priorities, where the taxpayers' money should be spent, and where the goals and objectives which we hope to accomplish can be approached in an effort to meet them.

The \$500 billion omnibus appropriation bill which we just passed and I voted for contains funding for many of our governmental agencies which provide a glimmer of hope for the poor, elderly, and disinherited of our society. While this bill is not picture perfect, it does in fact contain some real victories for many people throughout America.

The defense appropriation is too high, but we fought off attempts to cut the summer jobs program for disadvantaged youth. They now have hope again. We resisted attempts to cut low-income home energy assistance programs. Now seniors and others on fixed incomes will not have to choose between staying warm in the winter or buying food to eat. When the hawk comes to the windy city, to Chicago, and the wind off Lake Michigan drops temperatures to zero, 5, 10, and 15 degrees below, low-income people will have some help to try and keep warm.

We prevailed in getting \$1.1 billion as a down payment for 100,000 new teachers, which means that we will be able to reduce class size. Unfortunately, we did not get the money needed for school construction, which absolutely makes no sense, because what is the use in having teachers if we do not have schools?

The bill contains a significant amount of money for health care, which pleases me greatly. The \$100 million increase for federally qualified community health centers will go a long way toward serving the large number of uninsured Americans in rural and inner city communities.

It has \$10.6 billion for the National Institutes of Health budget, which provides much needed money for medical research; \$110 million to address HIV-AIDS in the African American community; \$1.4 billion for the Ryan White AIDS program, and \$105 million for the Healthy Start program.

This bill also contains needed funding for education: \$1.2 billion as a down payment to reduce class size; \$125 million for the school-to-work opportunities programs, which help ease the transition from school to work; \$600 million for TRIO funding; \$995 million for adult job training, which would fund about 386,000 participants.

But in reality, this bill is a testament to the will of the American people, who have indicated that they place substance over rhetoric, and that they appreciate real leadership.

I commend my colleagues, and I commend President Clinton for his politi-

cal acumen and skill in orchestrating this compromise. It is good for my district, and it is good for America.

**AMERICA'S VULNERABILITY TO
BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACK**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I have come before this body over 150 times to talk to my colleagues and the American public about what I see are some of the important issues that this country faces.

Oftentimes my colleagues on the other side have repeatedly accused the Republicans of leading a "do-nothing" Congress. In one sense, I am very sorry to report that they are correct. This Congress has done nothing about our Nation's vulnerability to ballistic missile attack. Congress has failed to begin building a national missile defense system, a failure that is so inexcusable I will have to agree with my liberal Democratic colleagues, at least on this one point.

The United States has a policy of deliberately remaining vulnerable to a missile attack. Instead of building a national missile defense system, we place our faith in a piece of paper called the ABM Treaty. Our national security depends, therefore, on tyrants, dictators, and international thugs to respect that piece of paper.

Does anyone really believe that Saddam Hussein cares that we have signed an ABM treaty, a treaty with a country that no longer exists? Does anyone really believe that Mu'ammar Qadhafi will think twice about threatening the United States because we have signed the ABM treaty? Did Osama bin Laden reconsider his terrorist strikes against our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania because we are signatories to the ABM Treaty?

What good will the ABM treaty be against the Islamic bombs, weapons which will soon be in the hands of rogue nations whose citizens demonstrate against the great Satan by burning the American flag? Did North Korea step back from launching missiles into Japanese territory because America has signed an arms control agreement with a country that no longer exists?

Mr. Speaker, this policy of deliberate vulnerability is dangerous, it is foolish, and it is counterproductive. What is also strange is that we already have a technology to deploy a missile defense system. The U.S. Navy's Aegis cruisers are equipped with the technology that can be converted into a national missile defense system at a minimal expense. The Navy has already spent billions of dollars perfecting the state-of-the-art system, and it defies logic to prevent that system from being developed to end our vulnerability to a missile strike.

I do not understand why the other side refuses to take dangerous threats seriously. Must we always be surprised when the threat is upon us? How many times in history must we learn the hard way? How many more examples of rogue nations threatening the United States do we need to have before we wake up to the threats? Must the United States squander the technological edge that it has built up over the years with billions and billions of dollars for the sake of a meaningless arms control agreement?

Mr. Speaker, although we have, in the recently passed budget, approximately \$1 billion for some antiballistic missile research and development, the American people expect more. They deserve more, and failure to do so is a violation of the public trust.

I might remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that the preamble to the Constitution declares to all the world that "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, and provide for the common defense."

Let us stop there, and provide for the common defense of this Nation, Mr. Speaker. Failure to build a national missile defense system immediately is a failure to provide for the common defense of America. Every single person in America will know it, but will they know it far too late to take advantage of it?

□ 2045

CLOSING THOUGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Speaker Newt Gingrich made his remarks in discussing the omnibus budget that we just passed, he asked the question, what we would have done if we had not passed this legislation. Frankly, I agree with him that this was a must-do situation. But it was not a situation that could not have been done differently. And frankly, those of us who voted for this legislation clearly recognized that the process was faulty, that what might have been totally best for the American people was not concluded because of the haste in which we had to work.

I am, of course, concerned with many issues that impact my district. And frankly, we have made some progress on this omnibus bill. I am glad that homeless youth in Texas will have an additional \$300,000 as given to Covenant House, Texas, and I am glad of the work of the appropriators with my offers to secure these dollars for that very worthy cause, to bring young homeless people into a clean and secure place in order to get them back on track.

I will be able to tell my housing authority, where some 25,000 people remain on a waiting list for housing, that